

THE HEAVENS IN 1909.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

The coming year promises to be full of events of interest to the astronomer. There are four eclipses scheduled to take place, two of the sun and two of the moon. Saturn is beginning to spread his rings, the sunspots on the face of old Sol will reach their lowest ebb in importance and numbers, Halley's comet will again return to mortal vision, and other lesser events in the solar system will occur. Before next December's sun is set the star gazers of the world may have many things to add to the book of human knowledge.

The government is studying the heat of the sun, the Carnegie Institute is measuring the heat of a star, and is also installing in its Mount Wilson Observatory the largest telescope in the world, one that will penetrate even further than the astronomer has gone toward the vast confines of the universe.

The first eclipse of the sun will occur June 17, and will be visible in the United States north of a line drawn from San Francisco to the mouth of the Rio Grande. The second eclipse of the sun will be only a partial one, and will be visible in the United States. The only land from which it will be visible is the southern part of Eastern Australia. Both the lunar eclipses will be in totality, and will be visible in the United States. The one occurring June 17 will be visible only in the eastern and central time belts, while the other will be seen throughout the United States. The eclipses of the sun will not be as full of interest as some others have been, and the second one, occurring in December, will go unobserved, at least so far as American astronomers are concerned.

The coming of Halley's comet will be the astronomical event of the year. For thirty-eight years it has been traveling toward us at the rate of 2,546,000 miles every day, and is now about 400,000 miles away. By the middle of May, 1910, it is expected to reach its perihelion—the nearest point it will reach—which will be about 55,000,000 miles away. Then it will turn back and travel out beyond the confines of the solar system, to reverse its course only after 3,000,000,000 miles of wandering has been undergone. It comes once every seventy-five years, but loses some of its brightness each time it comes. It is expected to be seen by the naked eye, and to put the stains of travel upon it. The Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America has appointed a committee of four astronomers to outline ways and means for studying this celestial visitor. The comet bears the name of Halley, because it was he who predicted its return, stating that he would be dead when it came, but that he wanted posterity to remember his prediction.

The coming of this comet will bring heavy meteoric showers with it, and the world may expect to see some brilliant displays of shooting stars. It is said that there are 50,000,000 meteors hurled in our direction every year, and that if it were not for the atmospheric cushion which destroys them by the development of ferocious frictional heat, not one of us could escape this great celestial bombardment. In the New York Museum of Natural History there is a meteor which "penetrated the earth's armor," as it were, and fell in Greenland. It weighs nearly forty tons.

The rings of Saturn begin to grow wider this year, and will continue to expand until 1915, when contraction will again set in. For years it was thought that these rings were clouds of vapor around the planet, but recent spectroscopic tests show that they are made up of minute particles traveling on their own orbits. As stated before there will be few sun spots to be watched, as this is an off season for them.

One of the most interesting undertakings in the astronomical world to-day is the studies being made by the astrophysical observatory of the Smithsonian Institution toward solving the questions of the sun's heat. All life, all being, depends on the sun. Decrease its temperature a few degrees and the world would become enshrouded in darkness. A thousand interesting and valuable things depend on what can be learned about the sun's heat. At the observatory they have made all sorts of traps to catch sunbeams, and once caught they can never escape. Until they have added their tribute to the sum of human knowledge about the great source of our light and life.

An instrument has been devised which tells the difference of temperature up to a hundred-millionths of a degree. 1,000,000 times more sensitive than the most delicate thermometer in general use. It has been found that the sun is a very hot place. It gives off heat enough to develop 100 horsepower for every four square feet of surface under ideal conditions, and for every six and a half square feet under average conditions with the sun at meridian. A city lot of average size would give enough power to run a 100-horsepower plant. The solution of the question of utilizing solar energy involves only the devising of a method of storing it when the sun is high and bright for times when it is low or clouded.

Finite mind cannot comprehend the tremendous heating power of the sun. It is said that if all the coal in the State of Pennsylvania were to be burned in a single second, the heat would not be equivalent to that given off by the sun in the same time. Each square foot of the sun's surface—and its diameter is 86,000 miles—gives off 10,000 calories of heat per minute, enough to develop 10,000 horsepower. It is generally conceded that the heat of the sun is caused by contraction. Inch by inch the great luminary is falling into itself, falling so slowly, however, that it will take 700 years to shrink 400 miles. So eminent an authority as Prof. Newcomb assures us that it will be at least 1,000,000 years before it shrinks far enough to injure the human race.

Yet with all its heat and brightness, with all its bigness by comparison with our little globe, and all its greatness to us, the sun is only an unimportant member of the universe. The star, Arcturus, is said to be 5,000 times as bright, and Algol gives sixty-six times as much light. To the question of the little child saying its "twinkle, twinkle, little star, how I wonder what you are," science has answered that it is a sun like our own. In fact, the sun we see is rated by astronomy as but a star of the fifth magnitude. But even though it is an unimportant star from the universe standpoint, it will still be studied above every other thing in the heavens, on account of the many wonderful secrets it holds.

The Carnegie Institution has set up the largest telescope in the world on Mount Wilson, California, which is a mile above sea level. Here they expect to delve into the mysteries of space on a scale hitherto unapproached. One thing they will do is to study the sun from the standpoint of a star. Another will be to learn something new about the stars themselves. Each discovery teaches some new lesson, and makes the next one plainer than the one before. Every proposition in astronomy is proved with great conclusiveness before it gets gen-

eral acceptance. As the spider spins his web about the fly and securely holds him, astronomy weaves its web of hypotheses around the secrets of the universe and makes them its own.

A single illustration will suffice: In determining the distance of the sun they calculated it on the basis of the mass of the earth and got approximately 93,000,000 miles. Then they worked it out by the parallax method, entirely different in every particular, and got practically the same result. Then they approached the solution through the velocity of light, and the result was the same. At last they figured it out from known facts about the motion of the moon—with again the same result.

Previous discoveries, reached through the same painstaking and proof positive methods, had made these operations possible. For instance, it was considered up to 1874 that light flashed instantaneously. Then Romer figured that the reason the eclipses of Jupiter's moons did not take place at the exact moment anticipated was because Jupiter was farther away from the earth at some times than at others, and that the light did not get here as promptly when it had to travel so far. This was the beginning of investigations which show the velocity of light to be 186,000 miles a second.

To show how astronomers tax the very limit of human ingenuity to study the heavens, the little instrument made for measuring star heat at the Mount Wilson observatory serves admirably. First, there is a plain mirror, which throws the beams of a star onto a concave mirror. This

HER ENGAGEMENT JUST ANNOUNCED.



MISS FREDERICA MORGAN.

Fiancee of Evan Sinclair Cameron, of Baltimore.

IN THE SOCIAL WORLD.

Continued from Page Five.

the band struck up "The Star Spangled Banner," as the lights were again turned on and every one stood at attention.

Then to the strains of "Home, Sweet Home," the dancers glided about the floor for the finale.

Mrs. Henry B. Polk, of 1533 P street northwest, has as her guests the Misses Elizabeth Steel and Julia Cottrell, of Richmond.

Representative and Mrs. Henry Burd Cassel and the Misses Cassel are at the Shoreham for the winter.

Mrs. Richard Brown, of New Brighton, N. Y., wife of the famous captain of that name, and Miss Marion Wilkinson, who is the daughter of Mr. John Wilkinson, prominently identified with politics in Richmond County, N. Y., are the house guests of Col. and Mrs. George J. Drew and wife at the Berwick.

Mrs. Dalzell, wife of Representative Dalzell, entertained at luncheon yesterday in honor of Miss Hatch and Miss Brooks, two of the season's buds. The other guests were Miss Weeks, Miss Alshire, Miss Harlow, Miss Vandergriff, Miss Caroline Shepard, Miss Marie Aldrich, Miss Scully, Miss Mische, Miss Knight, Miss Dorothy Langitt, Miss Matland Marshall, Miss Havard, Miss Dorothy Brooks, Miss Montgomery, and Mrs. Duff.

Miss Regina Cassidy, 22 Ninth street northeast, entertained at supper last evening, for her cousin, Miss Mary Cassidy, of New York.

A few of the Brazilian students now taking courses of study in American colleges will spend the remainder of the holidays in Washington as the guests of Maj. J. Orton Kerby, of the Bureau of American Republics. Messrs. H. Oswaldo

REFLECTIONS OF A BACHELOR GIRL

By HELEN ROWLAND.

When counting the cost of getting married, don't forget the alimony. It is so hard for a girl to hold her skirts just high enough to escape the mud and just low enough to escape criticism. It is only in novels that men "love not wisely, but too well," in real life most of them love too wisely—and too often—to love well.

When a man compares a girl to a queen or a saint, she may feel flattered, but it isn't until he begins to compare her to a kitten or a baby that she has any reason to feel perfectly sure of him.

There is nothing like a wife's absence to make her husband's heart grow fonder—of any woman who happens to be near.

You can never make a man believe that the way to sew on a button is not to stab it through the heart as though it were an enemy and then strangle it by winding the thread round its neck.

Grass widows are so lucky; as soon as one man begins paying a woman alimony, somehow all the others begin paying her attention.

in turn concentrates the beam onto a platinum thread, smaller than the filament of a spider spin, through which a current of electricity is kept passing. The heat which this star beam communicates to the platinum thread is communicated to a little instrument which is made as follows: A little beam or balance, made of a thread of spun glass, five inches long and smaller than a human hair, is fastened to a support by suspending it on a thread of spun quartz crystal two feet long and a five-thousandth of an inch in diameter. In the exact middle of the beam is fastened a mirror as small as a pin head, yet made so perfect that every point of the mirror will touch when placed on a 4-foot globe. This mirror is attached to the beam by pasting it to a little square cut from the wing of a dragon fly, and that in turn to the beam. The mirror weighs no more than a fly's hind leg. The heat of Arcturus, perhaps the hottest star in the universe, is said to amount to only as much as the heat of a candle five miles away.

The whole solar system is said to be going toward the constellation Lyra at the rate of a million miles a day. One who has walked through a forest and has seen the trees gradually close in behind and open up in front has a good idea of the phenomenon the astronomers see. The Southern heavens are gradually closing in and those of the North are opening up. The distances of the universe are such as to be inconceivable. Neptune is the outermost object of the solar system, swinging around its tremendous cycle nearly three billion miles from the sun; yet the nearest fixed star is 244,000 times farther away from the sun than is Neptune. Though light travels at a rate that would send it around the earth seven and one-half times in a single second, it would take it 220 years to come to us from the farthest known star. If there could be an eye on some of the most distant stars which could defy space it would not be beholding the israelites in Canaan. Who has not seen the Pole Star? Were there an eye upon it which could see the things on earth, that eye would now be looking at the great drama of the civil war.

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To-morrow—The City of Savannah.

NEW YEAR'S RECEPTIONS.

The official social season will open to-day with great pomp and brilliance with the great reception in the White House by the President and Mrs. Roosevelt. They will have with them in the reception line the Vice President and Mrs. Fairbanks and the members of the Cabinet and their wives, with a few exceptions. Immediately after the women in the receiving party leave the line, which will be just preceding the reception of the public, the Cabinet hostesses will go to their own homes and begin their receptions, which will continue until 6 and in some cases 7 o'clock.

Mrs. Fairbanks will have with her from 3 to 6 o'clock her daughter, Mrs. Timmons; her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Warren Fairbanks, of Chicago; Mrs. Elkins, Mrs. Foraker, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Burrows, Mrs. Doliver, Mrs. William Alden Smith, Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Flint, Mrs. Culberson, Miss Kean, Miss Foraker, Miss Hemenway, Miss Sutherland, and the Misses Clark. All of the Senatorial circle; Mrs. Charles B. Landis, Mrs. Jesse Overstreet, and Mrs. J. C. Cheney, wives of Representatives from Indiana; Miss Wood, of New Jersey; Mrs. John W. Foster, Mrs. Shannon, Mrs. W. W. Bridge, niece of the Vice President, Miss Weeks, and Miss Margaret Wade.

The Secretary of State and Mrs. Root will entertain the members of the diplomatic corps and their families at a reception and buffet breakfast immediately after their reception in the White House. They will be assisted to-day by Mrs. Bacon, wife of the Assistant Secretary of State, and Mrs. Huntington Wilson, wife of the Third Assistant Secretary of State.

There will be no reception in the home of the Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Cortelyou.

Mrs. Wright, wife of the Secretary of War, will have in her party Mr. J. Franklin Bell, wife of the Chief of Staff, U. S. A., J. Franklin Bell, who will make the presentation of the callers to Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Corbin, Mrs. Garlington, Mrs. Sharpe, Mrs. Wetherston, Mrs. Taylor, of Tennessee; Mrs. Oliver, wife of the Assistant Secretary of War; Mrs. Laws, wife of Commander George W. Laws, now stationed at Annapolis; Mrs. Summerlin, Mrs. Bourke Cockran, Mrs. Wynne, Mrs. Samuel Sturgis, Mrs. Reid Rogers, Mrs. Conner, Mrs. Cheatham, Mrs. Joseph Leiter, Mrs. Hooker, Miss Caroline Murray, the Misses Humphrey, Miss Marshall, Miss Marjorie Alshire, Miss Van Vorhis, Miss Ida, Miss Marie Brown, and Mrs. John H. Watkins, daughter of Mrs. Wright, who is her guest for several weeks.

Mrs. Bonaparte, wife of the Attorney General, will have as assistants Mrs. Henry M. Hoyt, Mrs. Richard Wayne Parker, Mrs. Charles W. Russell, Mrs. Nathaniel Francis, Mrs. Charles Henry Butler, Mrs. Thomas M. Chatham, Mrs. Van Orsdel, Mrs. Francis Loring, Mrs. James Brown, Mrs. John McHenry, Mrs. Ellishbury, Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Emory, Mrs. Charles L. McCawley, Mrs. E. C. Campbell, Mrs. Richard Mulligan, Mrs. E. H. C. Leutze, Mrs. Seaton Schroeder, Mrs. Richardson Clover, Mrs. Carl Vogelgesang, Mrs. Spencer Wood, Mrs. B. C. Palmer, Mrs. Elmer, the Misses Converse, the Misses Schroeder, Miss Leutze, Miss Emory, Miss Rogers, the Misses Murray, Miss Todd, and Miss Yvonne Townsend.

Mrs. Meyer, wife of the Postmaster General, has a small party with her to-day, consisting of Mrs. Loodon, wife of the Minister of the Netherlands; Countess von Moltke, wife of the Danish Minister; Mrs. Beekman Winthrop, wife of the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; Miss Martha Cameron, Miss Martha Phillips, and the Misses Meyer.

Mrs. Newberry, wife of the Secretary of the Navy, will have a smart company, composed of Mrs. Dewey, wife of the Admiral of the Navy; Mrs. Satterlee, wife of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy; Mrs. William Sheffield Cowles, Mrs. Converse, wife of Rear Admiral Converse; Mrs. Ellishbury, Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Emory, Mrs. Charles L. McCawley, Mrs. E. C. Campbell, Mrs. Richard Mulligan, Mrs. E. H. C. Leutze, Mrs. Seaton Schroeder, Mrs. Richardson Clover, Mrs. Carl Vogelgesang, Mrs. Spencer Wood, Mrs. B. C. Palmer, Mrs. Elmer, the Misses Converse, the Misses Schroeder, Miss Leutze, Miss Emory, Miss Rogers, the Misses Murray, Miss Todd, and Miss Yvonne Townsend.

Mrs. Garfield, wife of the Secretary of the Interior, will have Mrs. Albert J. Beveridge, Mrs. Herbert Parsons, Mrs. Frank Lowden, Mrs. Henry M. Hoyt, Mrs. George L. Gillespie, Mrs. Joseph Sanger, Mrs. Hennen Jennings, Mrs. Fremont Smith, Mrs. R. C. Bulmer, Mrs. William H. Sims, Mrs. Wilmer, Mrs. Francis Leupp, Mrs. Charles S. Brownell, Mrs. William H. Dall, Mrs. Gallard Hunt, Mrs. Oliver, Mrs. Schreder, Mrs. Maudie, Mrs. Henriques, Miss Ruggles, Miss Horsey, Miss Leupp, Miss Jennings, Miss Hoyt, Miss Noble, and Miss Goodwill, of Baltimore.

There will be no reception in the home of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Mrs. Straus, wife of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, will have with her daughter, Mrs. Leonard Hochstadter, of New York; Mrs. Dwight, wife of Representative Dwight; Mrs. James Breck Perkins, wife of Representative Perkins; Mrs. William Bennett, wife of Representative Bennett; Mrs. Murray Cobb, Mrs. Herbert Knox Smith, Mrs. Duval, of New York; Mrs. Wheeler, wife of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Labor; Mrs. Richard Harlow, Mrs. Loeb, Mrs. Perkins, Miss Loring, Miss Gilmore, Miss Goldberger, Miss Gertrude, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. William Preble Hall, Miss Weeks, Miss Chew, Miss Lillian Chew, Miss Annie Irwin, Miss Marx, Mrs. Percy Strauss, Mrs. Hochstadter, sr., and Miss Ruggles.

Miss Cannon, daughter of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, will have with her Mrs. Dalzell, Mrs. Mann, Mrs. Boutell, Mrs. Huff, Mrs. Olcott, Mrs. Weeks, Mrs. Spalding, Mrs. Talbot, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Busbey, Miss Aldrich, Miss McCall, Miss Alice Parker, Miss Eleanor Parker, Miss Elizabeth Kean, Miss Hegeman, Miss Clifton, Miss Stewart, Miss Draper, Miss Foster, Miss Weeks, Miss Elsie Aldrich, and Miss Amylata Talbot.

Mrs. Depew, wife of Senator Chauncey Depew, will be at home from 3 to 6 this afternoon, assisted by Mrs. Benedict, Miss Paulding, and Miss Squire.

Mrs. Marshall, wife of Gen. Marshall, chief of engineers, will receive at Stoneleigh Court from 2 to 5. She will be assisted by the following party, wives of the assistant engineer officers: Mrs.

SORROW

Plows deep when we regret.
There is no regret when you have in the home a bottle of Gowan's Preparation, which prevents and cures all ailments where inflammation is the seat of the trouble. External, 25c, 50c, \$1.00. All druggists. Croup, Pneumonia—you know what it is—be prepared.

Langitt, Mrs. Goethals, Mrs. Abbott, Mrs. Bond, Mrs. McDougall, Mrs. Loving, Mrs. Raymond, Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Morrow, Mrs. Boggs, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Barden, Mrs. Casey, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Markham, Mrs. Hendley, Mrs. Poole, and Mrs. Preston Arkwright, of Atlanta, Ga., sister of the hostess.

Miss A. E. Hall, Miss Jeannette Carter, and Miss M. A. Crews will be at home to-day from 4 to 8, at 308 Third street, apartment 2.

Mrs. Barbour and Miss Marguerite Barbour will entertain the boys of St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum this afternoon at 3 o'clock. The boys will give a little concert preceded by speeches of welcome, &c., to their good friends, who have provided a treat of ice cream and cake and candy and several gifts of books and toys for each of the 102 orphans. The entertainment will be held in the gymnasium adjoining the asylum.

Rev. Weston Bruner, pastor of the Fifth Baptist Church, and Mrs. Bruner will receive this afternoon in the parsonage, 623 F street southwest, assisted by the deacons of the church.

Mrs. Ripley, wife of Capt. E. H. Ripley, will receive to-day from 2 to 10 o'clock with Farragut Corps at 647 East Capitol street.

Mrs. Cullom will not be at home to-day, but will receive on the first Thursday in January, assisted by her granddaughters, Mrs. Phelps Brown and Miss Ridgely.

Mrs. J. Ellen Foster, Miss Elizabeth F. Pierce, and Miss Helen Varick Boswell will be at home from 3 to 6 o'clock at the Fortner.

Miss Florence S. Harris will receive with the District Y, from 7 to 10 p. m., at 622 Sixth street northwest.

Miss Lois Hayden Meek, of 89 Rhode Island avenue northwest, will receive to-day from 4 to 7 o'clock.

Mrs. R. W. Cash, of 1421 Q street, will be at home to-day from 3 to 11 o'clock, assisted by Mrs. William Herndon, of Virginia; Miss Ruth Williamson, of Philadelphia; Miss Shawen, Miss Meetez, and Miss Simmons.

Mrs. Harris, wife of Rear Admiral Harris, will not receive to-day.

The M. M. Parker Lodge, Chapter Chapter, Royal Arch, Bethlehem Chapter, and Eastern Star will have a joint reception at New Masonic Temple to-night from 8 to 11.

Miss Edna Saunders and Miss Ruth Bowles will be at home, 143 Fairmont street, from 4 to 10.

The W. C. T. U. will be at home 522 Sixth street northwest from 4 to 7. President, Mrs. Clinton Smith; vice president, Mrs. M. E. Cohen; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Clayton E. Ennis; recording secretary, Mrs. Emma Shelton; assistant secretary, Mrs. B. A. Lindbeck; treasurer, Mrs. Charles P. Grandfield, assisted by presidents of local unions, and Miss Glen M. Wood.

Mrs. Jackson Tinker will receive informally to-day, from 2 to 6, at the Brandon, 1219 Massachusetts avenue.

Owing to recent death in the family of Commissioner Capers, Mrs. John G. Capers will not receive to-day, nor will she observe her days at home this winter.

Miss Nora R. Pepper, Miss Marian Hines, and Miss Margaret Cummins will receive at 142 U street northwest, from 3 to 6.

The Department of the Potomac Woman's Relief Corps will receive in G. A. R. Hall, Pennsylvania avenue northwest, from 12 to 4 p. m. The department president, Emma L. Newton, requests the presence of her department aids.

OPPOSES ANY CHANGE.

Washington Heights Citizens' Association Approves Present Form.

At a meeting of the Washington Heights Citizens' Association the plan proposed by the President for District government was declared to be despotic, aristocratic, and un-American.

The association appointed a committee to confer with other associations and to appear before both branches of Congress, with a view to defeating any legislation looking to a change in the present form of government.

The officers of the association are: Charles W. Darr, president; Hayden Johnson, vice president; Walter C. Balderson, secretary, and S. R. Norman, treasurer.

VICE PRESIDENTS NOMINATED.

Messrs. Oyster and Bell May Succeed Themselves in Chamber Election.

Thomas Grant, secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, yesterday announced that Capt. James F. Oyster and Charles J. Bell, the two vice presidents of the chamber, had been nominated to succeed themselves, they being the only nominees to date for those offices.

Capt. Oyster and Mr. Bell were respectively the presidents of the Business Men's Association and the Jobbers and Shippers' Association which merged to form the Chamber of Commerce. They were elected to the office of vice president and were re-elected last January. Each has done effective work for the organization, Capt. Oyster having served through the year at the head of the executive committee.

Mr. Grant also announced that T. B. Farquhar had been nominated as a candidate for director. The posting of his name in this connection makes the list of nominees for the ten directors to be elected twenty-eight.

The contest between William F. Gude and Arthur C. Moses for the presidency of the chamber continues to increase in interest, and the expectation is that the entire membership of the chamber will turn out on the night of the election to cast ballots for one or the other of the popular candidates.

A NEW YEAR THOUGHT.

Bells ring loud, bells ring clear!
Ringing loud, sounding free,
Chiming sweet and merrily,
Welcoming a newborn year.

Mid acclaim, like a king,
Enters he, With hope aglow
Are the hearts which seek to know
What his reign will bring.

Changing merrily, changing times,
Fragrance days of better cheer,
And there sounds no note of fear
In the music of the chiming.

Not to me, New Year, gay,
Do the bells so heavily ring
Of the past that's gone and will bring,
As of what you'll take away.

Views away, vanity,
Weakness, sloth that bars the goal,
Everything which cramps my soul,
New Year, take from me.

Bells ring loud, bells ring free,
Sounding loud, chiming clear,
Welcoming the newborn year,
Merrily, heartily.

AGNES BLANCHETTE HICKLEY.

1909

January 1

Greeting

CLOSED

ALL DAY

Open 8:30

To-morrow

S. KANN'SONS & CO.

The only department store on the main thoroughfare of the nation's capital.

Again a new year.

It is with great satisfaction that we look back upon a year of success, during which promises made at the year's beginning have been more than fulfilled.

The year's unprecedented progress is, we feel, evidence of public appreciation of our earnest endeavors.

We thank you and ask a continuance of your patronage, assuring you that we shall do everything within our power to deserve it.

S. KANN, SONS & CO.

ATTENTION, OPTIMISTS!

If there was ever a time that called for optimistic, hopeful thoughts it is at the time of the New Year. It is a time when we can all get together and stamp upon the calendar a message of our individuality—the message that is on our spirits to help our brother.

New Year's resolutions! All are making them; all are hoping to keep them, but it takes the true optimist to know in his soul that whether he succeeds in living up to his resolutions or whether he fails, it is his duty and his privilege to live on, hope on, fight for the best, smile at the worst; resolve to make progress anyhow.

Can we not, members of the Optimist Club, and others who are optimists, find some message in our hearts that will help our brothers and the world? Can we not write a note of cheer that will help to—

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kinder hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

All of us, that are true optimists, can do it, I am sure, and so I want on the Sunday after New Year's Day to present to our readers some hopeful messages for the "year that's coming on." I want messages that will help; messages that will aid men and women to face the New Year with shining, happy faces; with the light of hope in their eyes and with gladness in their hearts. I cannot do it by myself, and so I want you to help me. Will you?

As an additional inducement, I want to offer prizes for the best New Year's greeting from optimists. I don't care, just now, whether you are members of The Washington Herald Optimist Club or not—I want your messages of hope and good cheer in any case.

For the first best contribution along the lines I have indicated I will give a CASH PRIZE OF \$5.

For the SECOND BEST, \$3.

For the THIRD BEST, \$2.

For the five next best I will give PRIZES OF \$1 EACH.

For other contributions sent in and deemed worthy of publication I will award an honorable mention and print the contributions in the Sunday's paper.

Come on and help, Optimists! To paraphrase Marc Antony, "Ye who have things to say, prepare to say them now."

I don't care whether what you have to say be a message that you have culled from literature, or whether it is original—of course, I would sooner it was original—but what I want is helpfulness. Let it be in prose or in verse; it will be equally acceptable.

Only one thing: I want every contribution signed with name and address, and the time for receiving the contributions is Saturday at noon. After that none can be considered. Address your communications to "The Optimist," The Washington Herald. Strive for a prize, but strive, also, to write something that may be helpful; that may be a cheering and hopeful New Year's message to your fellow-man.

NEW YEAR'S DAY ROUND THE WORLD.

Time signals, which announced the beginning of the New Year in the United States and its possessions were sent out last night by the National Naval Observatory.

Four series of signals were sent out, as usual, at intervals of exactly one hour, to mark the instant of the beginning of the New Year in each of the four great standard time belts into which the United States is divided, namely, Eastern, Central, Mountain, and Pacific.

The first series began at 11:55 o'clock last night, Eastern time, and ended exactly at midnight, the system followed being the same as that in use daily at noon. The second series, ending at 1 a. m., Eastern time, the midnight signal for Central time. The third, at 2 a. m., for Mountain time, and the fourth, at 3 a. m., for Pacific time.

When it was midnight at Washington, Philadelphia, and New York, it was thus 11 p. m. at Chicago, St. Louis, and New Orleans; 10 p. m. at Denver, and 9 p. m. at San Francisco. Farther west it was 8 p. m. at Sitka, 6:30 p. m. at Honolulu, and 5:30 p. m. at Tutuila. But still farther west, beyond the International date line, it was no longer December 31, but January 1—2:30 p. m. at Guam and 1 p. m. at Manila. Similarly, it was already January 1 east of the United States, 1 a. m. at San Juan, Porto Rico, and about 7:30 a. m. on board of the battle-ship fleet returning homeward through the Red Sea, between Aden and Suez.

The order in which Americans welcomed the New Year is shown by the following table, the hours stated being Eastern standard time. To reduce to Central time, take one hour earlier; Mountain time, two hours, and Pacific time, three hours:

The New Year began at Guam at 9:30 a. m. December 31; at Manila, 11 a. m. December 31; at the battle-ship fleet, 4:30 p. m. December 31; Eastern United States and Panama, midnight December 31; Mississippi Valley, 1 a. m. January 1; Rocky Mountain region, 2 a. m. January 1; Pacific Coast States, 3 a. m. January 1; Sitka, Alaska, 4 a. m. January 1; Honolulu, 5:30 a. m. January 1; Tutuila, Samoa, 6:30 a. m. January 1.

New Year's Eve signals are transmitted voluntarily by the various telegraph and cable companies as a matter of public interest. Last year, for example, the Western Union Telegraph Company sent them through 500,000 miles of their wire in the United States, as well as to Canada, where they were distributed by the wires of the Great Northwestern Telegraph Company to Mexico and Cuba. The accuracy of transmission to the observatory at the Mare Island Navy Yard resulted in the detection of a slight error, one-third of a second of time, in the accepted longitude of that observatory.

The Postal Telegraph and Commercial Pacific Cable companies sent the signals to Honolulu, Midway, Guam, Manila, and Shanghai (3,111 miles of cable alone), and they even went to Japan and Australia, while the Central and South American Telegraph Company sent them down the isthmus and the west coast of South America and thence overland as far as the Cordoba Observatory in Argentina.

TRIES OUT HIS GUNS.